Study on India's Power Policies by World Bank

2244. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned ""Government rejects WB study on India's power policies" as reported in the Times of India dated 29th December, 1999;

(b) whether the World Bank is interested to conduct study on India's power sector policies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of guidelines issued by the World Bank during the past three years with regard to India's power policies; and

(e) to what extent Government have implemented them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the news item which states that the Government rejects World Bank study on India's power policies. The Government does not agree with the conclusion sought to be projected in the document of the World Bank since the entire document is based on the basis of some studies conducted in only two states,"viz. Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. The per capita emission of carbon-di-oxide in India is between one tenth to one twentieth of the per capita carbon-di- oxide emission in developed countries. Besides, all power plants in India are established after obtaining full environmental clearance. The Government is also committed to promoting efficiency. The use of efficient generating plants and pollution control technologies is bound to reduce the level of emissions. The efforts of energy conservation including demand side management will also reduce demand. The Fly Ash Mission is doing extensive work on optimum flyash utilisation. The Government is also aware of the financial problems of the State Electricity Boards which is the other aspect referred to in the World Bank document. The Government has, consequently, focussed on the issue of reforms over the last two years.

(b) No proposal has been received from the World Bank for conducting a study on India's power sector policies.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The World Bank does not issue any guidelines in regard to India's power sector policies. They generally lay down covenants at the time of

signing the loan agreements with the operating/project implementing agencies for grant of loan for a particular power project/scheme. The Bank has its own internal operational procedures, policies and guidelines.

Strike in the UP. Power Sector

2245. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was complete strike in the U.P. power sector seriously affecting the power supply and crippling the power supply to northern grid;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered as a consequence thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Government of Uttar Pradesh and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Pipavav Mega Power Project

2246. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fate of 2000 MW Pipavav Mega Power Project;

(b) by when its construction would start; and

(c) by when it would be able to supply power to Rajasthan and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The 2000 MW Pipavav power project is one of the projects identified under the revised mega power projects policy announced in November, 1998. The RFQ (Request for Qualification) process for the selection of qualified bidders has been completed and 13 prospective bidders have been selected for the RFP (Request for Proposal) process. Draft RFP document has been issued to the bidders and a pre-bid conference was held on 22nd February, 2000.

(b) and (c) The detailed time schedule for implementation of the Pipavav mega project will be incorporated in the final RFP document. However, construction work on the project and subsequent supply to the beneficiary states including Rajasthan, would start only after the necessary inputs/clearances are tied up by the selected bidder and financial closure is achieved.